

Week Commencing 28th April 2003

St. Georges B are home and dry in Division 2. Their last two matches of the season brought two more wins for a total of 167 points which no-one will be able to catch. So the Saints will return to Div 1 for next season, from whence they were relegated just 12 months ago, with the added confidence of knowing that they are Div 2 champions and so worthy of a div 1 place. Their last two victories were against Eathorpe A 8-2 and RNA D 9-1 to give them a season record of 20 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss. In the Eathorpe match, Rob Bennett took a hat-trick and Tracey Fletcher and Rob Warnes braces and the doubles together. Eathorpe's Matthew Cooper held onto two and was unlucky to lose the doubles 14/12 in the fifth. In the naval victory, Rob Bennett and Rob Warnes both took trebles, Tracey Fletcher a brace and Bennett and Fletcher the doubles. Steve Proctor salvaged the naval pride with a single.

Free Church A look set for second place. First they edged past Whitnash B 6-4 and then they rolled over RNA A 10-0. Against 'Nash Hugh Matthews and Dave Daniels picked up two each and the doubles and Les Booth provided the crucial single. Whitnash's Liz Haynes held her three and Paul Riman one. The same trio of Hugh Matthews, Dave Daniels and Les Booth were the Church squad to whitewash the navy. With 153 points from 21 matches Church A seem destined to move to Div 1 for September, but with only one match result to come, they can not catch the Saints.

Three other results for RNA A see that crew completing for 132 points. First they slipped 8-2 to Whitnash B with Ken Southwell and Kim Wong taking one each for RNA. Whitnash's Paul Riman took a treble, Dennis Woodhead and Jane Dickens two each and the two men took the doubles. Then the RNA A scored the same 8-2 result but reversed over Marconi A. Ken Southwell and Tony Thomas gained hat-tricks and Ian Stevens two. Marconi's Dennis Mockford gained one single and the doubles with Roy Joiner. Finally against Free Church B Tony Thomas and Ken Southwell again took their singles and Ian Stevens chipped in with one single for a naval 7-3 victory. Church's Cherry Matthews and Tom Brocklehurst kept one each and Tom Brocklehurst partnered Ian Rourke for the doubles.

Whitnash B also picked up a 10-0 some time ago in a misplaced card against AP Sports B with a team comprising of Paul Riman, Jane Dickens & Dennis Woodhead.

Free Church C will finish mid-table - reflecting their match results. Their last three matches gave results of either 6-4 or 5-5! Firstly against RNA B two each from Pete Rourke and Stuart Mills, one from Chris Mulligan plus the doubles by Mulligan and Mills gave Church the 6-4 advantage. Steve Poole gave two singles to the naval B's, Duncan Hall and Richard Miles one each. A Free Church derby between the C's and the B's ended in a 5-5 draw. Chris Mulligan and Stuart Mills gave two singles each and the doubles to the C's, but Tom Brocklehurst gained an excellent maximum for the B's and was supported by one each from Emma Churchley and Cherry Matthews. Against Marconi A Church C again edged the win 6-4 led by a treble from Chris Mulligan, a brace from Stuart Mills and the critical doubles together. Marconi's Richard Jardim held onto two, Dennis Mockford and Roy Joiner one each though with 5 matches decided on deuce the score could have been far different.

A naval battle saw the RNA C crew matched evenly 5-5 with the B squad. The tone of the match was set in the first game which finished at 18/20 in the fifth ! For the B's Steve Poole took his three and Richard Miles two. C's equalising points came from Dot Macfarlane with two, Graham Heath and Andy Davies with one each and the doubles.

Another 5-5 draw came when AP Sports B were opposed by Eathorpe A. Gerald Taylor and Tony Williams gave AP braces and the doubles but no-one could halt Matthew Cooper who kept his three singles for Eathorpe and was supported by one each from Chris Atkins and Colin Cooper.

Two close semi-finals in the individually-handicapped Coronation Cup and both finished at 5-4. First Eathorpe A overcame AP Sports A/B with two each from father and daughter Colin and Sophie Cooper plus one from Chris Atkins. Eddy Stafford kept two for AP, Andrew Meredith and Gerald Taylor one each. Then Free Church A (who are likely to finish runners-up in Division 2) overcame Free Church F/G from Division B. The very experienced Hugh Matthews took his three for the A's, Les Booth one and John Taylor took his one crucially in the last game. Jon Mason held two for F/G, Peter Mason and David Whittaker one each.

The two semi-finals in the team handicapped Southwell Trophy also went to the wire with both matches finishing at 6-5. Another Free Church derby with all teams hailing from Division B finished with H/J beating I/K 6-5. A County Council team composed from the A and C sides had to start from +0 to opponents Eathorpe A who started on +18 but it was Council's Clive Irwin who took the last game for his treble and the match. Phil Paine also took his three for Council. Eathorpe's Chris Atkins, Colin and Matthew Cooper all took one single each and both sets of doubles between them.

Presentation evening

The Leamington and District Table Tennis Association Presentation Evening is on Friday 16th May at the Lillington Club. During the evening trophies are presented to the winners and runners up in each division and the two handicap cups. The perpetual trophies for the winners of events at the Leamington Closed are also presented. There is a buffet, licensed bar and disco. Friends and family welcome.

Tickets are available from Malcolm Macfarlane price £7 adults, £6 juniors.